

1      **CLAIMS**

2      1. A method comprising:  
3              creating a template class that stores at least one template parameter;  
4              specifying at least one additional object to be created when an instance of  
5              the template class is created;  
6              initiating the creation of a new instance of the template class using the at  
7              least one template parameter; and  
8              if an error occurs during the creation of the new instance of the template  
9              class, receiving a report identifying the error.

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11      2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein initiating the creation of a  
12              new instance of the template class includes associating the new instance of the  
13              template class with the at least one additional object.

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15      3. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein each instance of the template  
16              class is capable of handling event data.

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18      4. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising offering the  
19              template class to a plurality of users.

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21      5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the template class is a  
22              correlation helper template that parameterizes a particular aspect of a correlation  
23              scenario.

1       6. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein the correlation helper  
2 template includes at least one parameter to be defined by a user initiating the  
3 creation of a new instance of the template class.

4  
5       7. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
6 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
7 1.

8  
9       8. A method comprising:  
10       creating a first template class;  
11       designating inputs associated with the first template class;  
12       designating outputs associated with the first template class;  
13       creating a second template class;  
14       designating inputs associated with the second template class;  
15       designating outputs associated with the second template class; and  
16       creating a third template class by combining the first template class and the  
17 second template class.

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19       9. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the first template class has an  
20 associated object that is created when an instance of the first template class is  
21 created.

1       **10.**   A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the second template class  
2        has at least one associated object that is created when an instance of the second  
3        template class is created.

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5       **11.**   A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the third template class has a  
6        plurality of associated objects that are created when an instance of the third  
7        template class is created.

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9       **12.**   A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising creating a new  
10      instance of the third template class.

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12       **13.**   A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising:  
13        creating a new instance of the third template class; and  
14        if an error occurs during the creation of the new instance of the third  
15        template class, reporting the details of the error.

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17       **14.**   A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the first template class is a  
18        correlation helper template that parameterizes a particular aspect of a correlation  
19        scenario.

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21       **15.**   A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the second template class is  
22        a correlation helper template that parameterizes a particular aspect of a correlation  
23        scenario.

1       **16.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
2 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
3 8.

4

5       **17.** A template description structure comprising:  
6           at least one template class that stores a plurality of template parameters;  
7           at least one template builder class that identifies at least one additional  
8 object to be created with each instance of the template class; and  
9           at least one order parameter that identifies the order in which the template  
10 builder classes are instantiated.

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12       **18.** A template description structure as recited in claim 17 wherein the  
13 at least one template class is a correlation helper template that parameterizes a  
14 particular aspect of a correlation scenario.

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16       **19.** A template description structure as recited in claim 17 wherein each  
17 instance of the template builder class has an associated name.

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19       **20.** A template description structure as recited in claim 17 wherein each  
20 template builder instance is associated with an instance of a template class.

1       **21.** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a  
2 template description structure, the template description structure comprising:

3               at least one template class that parameterizes a particular aspect of a  
4 correlation scenario;

5               at least one template builder class, wherein each instance of the template  
6 builder class identifies an object that needs to be created when creating an instance  
7 of the template class; and

8               at least one order parameter that identifies the order in which the template  
9 builder classes are instantiated.

10  
11       **22.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 21  
12 wherein each instance of the template builder class has an associated name.